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CLASSIFICATION SECRET, [REDACTED]
East Germany

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COUNTRY [REDACTED] REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

TOPIC Volkspolizei Luft

EVALUATION [REDACTED] 25X1X PLACE OBTAINED [REDACTED] 25X1A

DATE OF CONTENT November and December 1953

DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED] 25X1A DATE PREPARED 20 January 1954

REFERENCES [REDACTED]

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS [REDACTED]

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1. Effective 1 December 1953, the VPL was re-organized into three divisions, re-designated Aeroclubs. Each division will have two regiments, newly designated detachments. The locations remained unchanged. Commanding officer of the division in Cottbus was Captain Raatz (fnu) who recently arrived from the USSR. Commanding officer of the division in Drewitz was Captain Reinhold (fnu), previously commander of the regiment in Cottbus. Commanding officer of the division in Bautzen became Lieutenant Colonel Paul Wilpert, the previous commander of the VPL division. All VPL pilots returned from the USSR in November 1953. 2
2. The Yak-11 aircraft assigned to the VPL have been flown by Soviet pilots since 25 November 1953. In December, one detachment of the individual Aeroclubs was trained on Yak-18s, while the other detachment was trained on Yak-11s. The latter aircraft were flown by pilots who had returned from the USSR. These VPL pilots were separated from the pilots who had started training in East Germany. 3
3. Cottbus airfield was occupied by Yak-18s and Yak-11s in addition to two biplanes with four-bladed propellers, radial engines, round windows and 11 seats in the fuselage. 4

25X1A

1. [REDACTED] Comment. [REDACTED] an intended re-organization within the VPL in 1954. [REDACTED] According to reference report, only a second division was to be activated. The organization of a third division, with each division consisting of only two regiments, now designated detachments of the Aeroclub, would mean a doubling of the previous three regiments of the VPL. It was previously assumed that the three existing regiments would be expanded to divisions in connection with an expansion of the VPL. Lieutenant Colonel Wilpert and Captain Reinhold are known. Captain Raatz is possibly identical with a previously reported VP-Oberkommissar Leander Ratz, about 32 years old, Rumanian by birth, who, in October 1951, had been an officer of the Planning Section of the Main Administration for Training - Air Force Department. VP Oberkommissar was the previous designation for senior lieutenant. 25X1 25X1A

CLASSIFICATION SECRET [REDACTED]

25X1

SECRET



25X1

25X1A

- 2 -

25X1A

2. Comment. A previous report [redacted] mentioned the arrival in Frankfurt/Oder of 300 KVP officers wearing civilian clothes. These officers had allegedly received air force training in the USSR for one year. The shipment was dispatched from Frankfurt to Kamenz. It is not known whether all of the officers were pilots. No information has been received on the status of training of the pilots. Those officers who had been pilots of the former Luftwaffe may have received training on jet aircraft.

25X1A

25X1A

3. Comment. Air activity has also been conducted in Yak-11s at Cottbus airfield since late November 1953. [redacted]

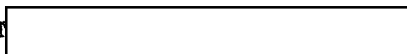
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4. Comment. The biplanes mentioned are of type An-2. This aircraft type and the Yak-18s and Yak-11s were repeatedly reported [redacted] Jet aircraft have not been observed again with the units of the VPL, now designated Aeroclub.

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